

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 CU-01 CIAE-00 NEA-07

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P R 151626Z SEP 76

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 26890

LIMDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, AORG

SUBJECT: OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, ISRAEL REFUSES RECEIVE

UNESCO TEAM BEFORE GENERAL CONFERENCE

1. GOI SENT LETTER DATED SEPT. 14 FROM MINISTER ALLO
TO DG M'BOW REFUSING RECEIVE AT THIS TIME UNESCO TEAM
TO COMPILE REPORT ON EDUCATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
WHICH WAS TO BE PRESETNED TO UNESCO GEN. CONF. IN
NAIROBI.

2. ORIGINAL OF LETTER SHOWN PERMREP BY NAJMAN OF
SECRETARIAT. DG M'BOW HAS NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF GOI
RESPONSE AS HE IS NOW OUT OF PARIS.

3. QUOTING FROM GOI LETTER "GOI AGREES 'IN PRINCIPLE'
TO THE PROPOSED MISSION", NOTING THAT MISSION TEAM TO
HAVE BEEN COMPOSED OF "DISTINGUISHED FORMER OFFICIALS OF
UNESCO OR OF THE UN". TEAM WOULD HAVE BEEN DR. MALCOLM
ADISESHIA, INDIA, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
UNESCO PRESENTLY VICE CHANCELLOR UNIV. OF MADRAS,
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VELEBIT D'VLATKO, YUGOSLAVIA FORMER SECRETARY OF THE

UN'S ECONOMIC COMM. FOR EUROPE AND PROF. FERNAND VALDERAMA, SPAIN, RETIRED UNESCO OFFICIAL, NOW PROFESSOR OF ARABIC LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AT THE UNIV. OF MADRID.

4. GOI LETTER CONTINUES MENTIONING THAT "TERMS OF REFERENCE" PROPOSED BY M'BOW IN HIS CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO GATHERING "FACTUAL INFORMATION ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS". THIS WAS EVIDENT APPROVAL OF FACT DG M'BOW'S LETTERS WERE CAREFUL NOT TO MENTION UNESCO RESOLUTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL RELATING TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BUT SOUGHT TO SEND TEAM SOLELY TO GATHER FACTUAL INFORMATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. CONCLUDING THE GOI LETTER STATED THAT IT WAS NOT NOW POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE THE TEAM BECAUSE THE SCHOOL YEAR HAD JUST BEGUN AND SCHOOLS UNPREPARED FOR SUCH A VISIT. RAMADAN WAS APPROACHING, THE JEWISH HIGH HOLIDAYS WERE HERE, KEY GOI OFFICIALS WILL BE ENGAGED IN PREPARATION FOR THE UNESCO GEN. CONF, SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS WILL BE AWAY AT THE UNGA AND FINALLY, AUTHORITIES IN THE "ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES" WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE UNESCO MISSION AT THE TIME PROPOSED.

6. GOI ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTED THAT UNESCO CONSIDER SENDING A "SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE THE GEN. CONF. WHO WOULD, OF COURSE, BE A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE ORGANIZATION TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF THE MISSION". A SUITABLE TIME FOR SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS BEFORE 25 SEPT. OR AFTER 5 OCT.

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2. NAJMAN AND HIS DEPUTY KABORE WERE BOTH GLOOMY AFTER RECEIVING THE GOI RESPONSE. THEY SAID THEY WERE ALMOST AFRAID TO TRANSMIT CONTENTS TO M'BOW AS THEY ARE SURE HE WILL BE ANGRY AND MOST UPSET. NAJMAN SAID M'BOW FELT HE HAD TO BE ABLE TO REPORT TO THE GENCONF THAT A TEAM HAD GONE TO ISRAEL IN ORDER TO BEAT BACK ARAB ATTEMPTS FOR A PUNITIVE RESOLUTION. M'BOW WANTED EVEN A SHORT REPORT OR SIMPLY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TEAM WHICH HE COULD SEND OUT TO MEMBER STATES JUST PRIOR TO THE GENCONF. M'BOW COULD HAVE THEN SAID HE HAD COMPLIED WITH THE MANDATE OF THE PREVIOUS GENCONF AND WORK TO KEEP LID ON POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE. NAJMAN AND KABORE SAID THEY WILL NOW FIND IT DIFFICULT TO HEAD OFF A PURELY POLITICAL FIGHT.

3. NAJMAN REQUESTS THE U.S. SEEK CONVINCE GOI TO ACCEPT THE TEAM PRIOR TO THE UNESCO GENCONF. HE SAID ANY TIME UP TO SEPTEMBER 20TH WOULD STILL PERMIT TIME FOR SOME KIND OF A REPORT. HE ALSO SAID THE INDIAN ADISECHIAH WOULD PROBABLY NOT NOW BE ABLE TO GO BUT UNESCO WOULD ACCEPT THE TWO-MAN TEAM. HE SAID M'BOW INSISTED ON PRIVATE PERSONS AS HE DID NOT WANT THE SECRETARIAT TO

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MAKE THE REPORT. THEREFORE, THE SUGGESTION OF GOI WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE AS AN IMMEDIATE ALTERNATIVE.

4. PERMREP SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT THE MESSAGE AND REQUEST, BUT FRANKLY DOUBTED WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE GOI.

5. COMMENT: NAJMAN AND KABORE SEEMED ALMOST AS MUCH AFRAID OF M'BOW'S REACTION AS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES AT GENCONF. THEY WERE CERTAINLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE GOI RESPONSE. WHETHER ADMISSION OF A TEAM WOULD HAVE HAD AS CALMING AN EFFECT AS THEY HOPED IS DOUBTFUL GIVEN PAST TRACK RECORDS ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, THIS DOES PLACE M'BOW IN AN AWKWARD POSITION AS IT LESSENS HIS

CREDIBILITY AS A NEGOTIATOR AND TENDS TO PLAY INTO THE
HANDS OF THE HARD-LINERS WHO ACCUSE M'BOW OF BEING TOO
SOFT ON ISRAEL. BOSSIER PALUM, M'BOW'S TRUSTED
CONFIDANT ACTUALLY HANDLED THE BULK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH GOI RATHER THAN NAJMAN. THE EFFECT ON BOSSIER'S
CREDIBILITY AS LEADER OF THE MODERATE AFRICANS MAY BE
PUT IN JEOPARDY AS A RESULT OF THIS FAILURE.

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